



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

## Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Storey County, NV

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The site-specific assessment will be conducted in Storey County (population 3,491), which was created in 1861 around the Comestock Lode and the gold and silver mining boom towns of Virginia City and Gold Hill. Both historic and modern mining operations have placed a burden on the county's environment and economy. The county's population is primarily rural, with only about one-quarter of the population



### Assessment Grant

New  
2005

#### \$350,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to sample soil and waste, characterize contamination, and develop cleanup plans for the Gooseberry Mine site in Storey County, a former gold and silver mine which includes mine waste materials, a leach pad, and a solid waste landfill. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team  
415-972-3188

[http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/  
index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html)

Grant Recipient: Nevada Division of  
Environmental Protection  
775-687-9384

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

living in city centers, and the majority of county residents working outside the county. The county faces the challenge of providing services to these residents without employment revenue generated by their labor force. The target property is the Gooseberry Mine, a tax-delinquent, medium-sized gold mining operation that declared bankruptcy. The mine's redevelopment is part of a larger effort by the county to diversify its economic base, provide employment opportunities to its rural residents, and attract a labor force from surrounding urban populations. That effort includes a large industrial park being planned in the vicinity of the mine.